

Remarks

Claims 11 and 14-16 are amended. Claim 13 is cancelled. Claims 11, 12, and 14-22 will be pending upon entry of this amendment.

Claims 14 and 15 are amended to correct a typographical error. The word "in" is replaced with --is--. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Applicants acknowledge with gratitude the allowability of claims 18-22.

Response to Rejection of Claims Under 35 USC § 103

Claims 11 and 12 stand rejected as being obvious in view of Roos (US 5,840,338) in combination with Wichterle (US 2,976,576). Although applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection, applicants have amended claim 11 to include the elements recited in dependent claim 13 in order to expedite allowance of the present application.

As set forth in the present Office action, claim 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 11, as amended, is claim 13 rewritten in independent form, including all of the elements recited in claim 13 and previously presented base claim 11. As such, claim 11, as amended, is submitted to be patentable over the references of record.

Claims 12 and 14-17 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 11 and are submitted to be patentable over the references of record for at least the same reasons as claim 11.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 11, 12, and 14-22 for the reasons set forth above. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this response to Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,

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